

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1950.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 4,424, greater by 207 than in 1949.

The number of registered births was 79, less by 24 than in 1949. The birth-rate was, accordingly, 17.88 per 1,000 estimated Home Population. Although the population has increased, the birth-rate has fallen considerably from 24.90 in 1949. The Royal Commission on Population in their report of 1949 found that the influences of the last war had considerably increased the number of marriages, and it is probable that the fall in the birth-rate for 1950 is related to a decrease in the number of recently married couples. Although the birth-rate fell appreciably, it is still higher than that for England and Wales, viz. 15.8, and is also considerably in excess of the crude death rate, viz. 8.36 per 1,000 estimated population, which when adjusted by the Registrar-General's Area Comparability Factor viz. 0.85, to standardise the population according to age and sex distribution is lower still viz. 7.1. The increase in population can therefore be accounted for by the low death-rate and the still relatively high birth-rate, as immigration in to the District cannot be a factor of importance.

There were 3 deaths of infants under one year of age, all occurring within the first 4 weeks of birth, giving an infantile mortality rate of 37.91 per 1,000 live births. These deaths were due to (1) cerebral haemorrhage, (2) broncho-pneumonia and (3) atelectasis, and were apparently unavoidable.

There were however no deaths amongst women due to pregnancy and childbirth which reflects creditably on the Midwifery Services, which are executed chiefly by Practitioners, Midwives and Maternity Nurses.

The number of still-births was 1, giving a rate of 12.5 per 1,000 total live and still births. Registration of still-births became law in 1927, when the national rate was found to be 40. It is now approximately 23 for England and Wales. Vigilant ante-natal care and skilled obstetrical attendance are essential to prevent a high-rate.

As afore-mentioned the crude and adjusted death-rates were low, the number of deaths being actually 37. As in previous years, locally and nationally the chief certified causes were Heart diseases and related Circulatory lesions, and Cancer. These deaths occur chiefly amongst the aged, but many lives could be saved or prolonged if early diagnosis and appropriate treatment were established. In England and Wales the percentage of those aged 65 years and over has increased from 4.7% in 1901 to 10.9% in 1949. It is to be expected therefore that these diseases which are associated with old age will naturally cause more deaths.

There were no other significant causes of death. There was none due to infectious disease.

There was a small epidemic of measles, 85 cases being notified and it is likely that many mild and missed cases escaped notice. It is impossible to control this infectious disease which misses few households, as it is most infectious before the eruption of the rash and before the child is usually isolated from other children. Fortunately it is not by itself a killing disease, but its complications such as broncho-pneumonia and encephalomyelitis would cause many deaths if untreated.

27 cases of Whooping Cough were also notified. Outbreaks of this distressing disease are also very difficult to control as the first week of the disease resembles a common cold which parents usually disregard by not isolating their children and by not usually consulting the family practitioner until the first paroxysm or whoop occurs. The most dangerous complication is broncho-pneumonia particularly in infants and is a cause of many deaths throughout the Country.

There were also 2 cases of mild Scarlet Fever. This disease was justifiably dreaded in the last Century when it claimed numberless victims but now it is rarely a cause of death owing to the organisms being at present of mild type, to the complete measures of control that can now be adopted and to effective specific treatment. The most common complication of the disease is middle-ear disease (Otitis Media) and early treatment is essential to prevent unpleasant sequelae to the patient.

One case of Erysipelas occurred. The causal organism is of the same genus as Scarlet Fever and previous to modern treatment was the cause of many deaths.

There were no cases of serious infectious disease, such as Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) Diphtheria, Enteric fever etc., and there were no cases of food-poisoning.

One death from Respiratory Tuberculosis occurred, and 2 new cases were notified, making a total of 12 patients on the Register. 11 of these suffered from Respiratory and 1 from non-respiratory Tuberculosis. The notification rate viz. 0.45 per 1,000 of the population is low.

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and co-operation in the work of this Department and the staff for their efficient and loyal service.

I am,

Yours obediently,

J. MARSHALL.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1950.

Area:- 31,031 acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-
The Resident Population ... 4,424

Number of Inhabited Houses According
to the Rate Books ... 1,656

Rateable Value:- ... £24,578

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate:- ... £99

Social Conditions

Romney Marsh Rural District is almost entirely engaged in Agriculture which is the only industry and common interest in the community. Part of the boundary is formed by the sea with wide expanses of sand, and here where there are holiday camps, camping-sites and sea-side dwellings, the inhabitants cater for the requirements of the many holiday-makers. There is negligible unemployment and social conditions are generally satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>Romney Marsh Rural Dist.</u>	<u>England and Wales.</u>
1. Live Births	79	53	26	Birth Rate	17.88	15.8
(a) Legitimate	74	51	23	per 1,000		
(b) Illegitimate	5	2	3	estimated		
				resident		
				population.		
2. Stillbirths	1	-	1	Rate per		
(a) Legitimate	1	-	1	1,000 total	12.50	-
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	(live and		
				still)		
				births.		
3. Deaths	37	23	14	Death rate	8.36	11.6
				per 1,000		
				resident		
				population.		
4. Deaths from				Rate per	-	0.86
Puerperal Causes	-	-	-	1,000 (live		
				and still)		
				births.		
5. Deaths of Infants						
under One Year						
of Age	3	3	-			
(a) Legitimate	3	3	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births					37.91	29.8
Rate re legitimate infants					40.54	
Rate re illegitimate infants					-	
6. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					13	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and						
diarrhoea					-	


The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 1950.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	27
Measles	...	...	...	85
Diphtheria	...	...	...	-
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-
Drysipelas	...	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROMNEY MARSH

RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1950

ALL CAUSES		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
		23	14
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other ...	-	-
3.	Syphilitis disease ...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria ...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough ...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections ...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	-	-
8.	Measles ...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, Lung, bronchus	5	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	-	-
16.	Diabetes ...	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	2
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	1	-
19.	Hypertension with heart disease ..	-	-
20.	Other heart disease ...	4	3
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	1	-
22.	Influenza ...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia ...	-	-
24.	Bronchitis ...	2	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations ...	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	-	-
34.	All other accidents ...	-	-
35.	Suicide ...	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war ...	-	-



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ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF BUILDING SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1950.

From the under-mentioned data and statistics, some idea of what has been carried out by this Department can be gathered.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Water Supply in this area is by:-

- (a) The Littlestone & District Water Company. Parishes of Dymchurch and St. Mary's.
- (b) The Mid-Kent Water Company. Remaining seven Parishes.

2. SEWERS

The outline Scheme to deal with the Coastal Belt of Dymchurch and St. Mary's-in-the-Marsh has been accepted in Outline by the Kent County Council, and it is expected the Ministry of Health will hold Local Inquiry into the Scheme at an early date.

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING

Cesspools are emptied throughout the area by the Council. Where emptying of Cesspools are required more than twice in six months a charge of 10/-d. is made.

4. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

<u>Premises Inspected.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
<u>Accumulation found</u>	1
<u>Animals Kept</u>	
(a) Piggeries	3
(b) Stables	5
(c) Fowls, pigeons etc.	20
<u>Complaints</u>	
Total number investigated. (All premises)	120
<u>Dairies</u>	
Cowsheds	39
Dairies	55
Milk Shops	9
<u>Disinfection</u>	
Number of houses disinfected	4
Number of other buildings disinfected	-
<u>Disinfestation</u>	
Number of houses	-
Number of other premises	-
<u>Drainage</u>	
Number of drains found choked	55
-do- defective	7
-do- tested	39
<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	
Number of Inspections re. repairs	115
Re-inspections	34
Number inspected re. overcrowding	2
Number found dirty	2
Number found verminous	-

<u>Infectious Diseases</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Visits re. Scarlet Fever	-
" " Diphtheria	-
" " Other Diseases	10

Factories

With mechanised power	16
Without " "	-
Bakehouses	32

Food Premises

Butchers' Shops or Stalls.	85
Preparation of Potted Meat etc.	30
Fruiterers.	21
Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops.	31
Restaurants or Cafe Kitchens.	80

Samples of Milk taken for Bacteriological Examination.

Satisfactory	12
Unsatisfactory	1

Miscellaneous Visits

Number of visits not otherwise classified.	91
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<u>Building Byelaws</u>	303
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<u>Shops Act</u>	45
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<u>Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.</u>	51
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Water Supply

Samples of these two undertakings, the Mid-Kent Water Company & Littlestone & District Water Company have throughout the year been found Satisfactory.

5. Rodent Control

Inspections made.	73
Infestations dealt with January to December	41
Estimated Mice Killed	83
Actual Mice Bodies found	25
Estimated Rats Killed	987
Actual Rat Bodies found.	251

6. Housing Programmes

It is interesting to note the expansion of the Council House Property.

Prewar. (Brick 3 Bedroom Type)	30
During the War. (Agricultural Brick)	14
Post War. Swedish	16
Airey	16
Traditional Brick (3 Bedroom Type)	96

Total Houses Occupied.	172
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7. MILK SUPPLY

The supply of Milk within the area was found to be Satisfactory. New Equipment has been installed during this last twelve months.

8. MEAT AND OTHER FOOD

The following is a list of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1950:-

Beef.	41 lbs.
Corned Beef.	3 tins.

9.

ICE CREAM

Three Licensed Producers operate in the area. 40 Samples were taken throughout the District and found to be satisfactory.

10.

BUILDING LICENCES

Total of £14,071, numbering 47 licences, have been dealt with during the past year. This includes Cost of Works (War Damage Rebuilding) and New Houses by Private Enterprise.

11.

PLANS

Number of Planning Applications dealt with under Town & Country Planning Act, 1947 submitted to this Council were 90.

Classified lll. and dealt with by the Kent County Council	14
" ll. & l. " " " " this Council.	76

2 Appeals were lodged with the Ministry of Town & Country Planning.

Both Appeals Upheld.

12.

CAMPING SITES.

Only Three Licensed Camping Sites are now in the area.

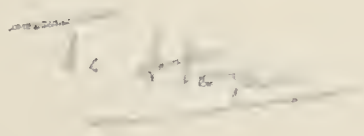
13.

MORTUARY.

With regard to the Council's Owned Mortuary, the following cases were dealt with:-

Total Number of Cases.	1
Number on which Post Mortem have been carried out.	1

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,



Building Surveyor.

"Prescott"
New Romney.

August, 1951.

